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Before the end of the Shang Dynasty, the northern parts of Hunan and Kiangsi had been incorporated into the Chinese state.[8] Chinese influence was slight, however, until the Ch'in Dynasty (221 to 207 B.C.) settled colonies of drafted soldiers from the North as farmers and military reservists in the provinces.[9] With the rise of the Han, the Sinifying process was intensified and completed.

The most famous names of Hupeh and Hunan in the traditional period are those of semi-historical figures. Some of the greatest battles of the Three Kingdoms period (221 to 226) took place in Hupeh. The military heroes of the time, such as Kuan Yü, have been enshrined in popular tales, which were evolved between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries into one of China's greatest novels -- The Romance of the Three Kingdoms.[10] This work was a particular favorite of Mao Tse-tung, and he has repeatedly drawn on it in his conversations and writings.[11] Hunan is one of China's

8. See map in Herrman, op. cit., pp. 10-11.

9. Harold Wiens, China's March Toward the Tropics, Hamden, Conn., The Shoe String Press, 1954, p. 9.

10. The novel is available in an English translation by C. H. Brewitt-Taylor, San Kuo, or The Romance of the Three Kingdoms, 2 vols., Shanghai, Kelly and Walsh, 1926.

11. See for instance his autobiography as told in Edgar Snow, Red Star over China, rev. ed., Garden City, N. Y., Garden Publishing Co., Inc., 1939, pp. 111-67.

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Hunan is one of China's
main sources of myths and legends. The yearly celebration of the nation-wide Dragon Boat Festival, for instance, is attributed to the search for the body of Ch'ü Yüan, a statesman of the Ch'u Kingdom, c. 300 B.C. He had reportedly drowned himself near Changsha to add emphasis to his advice to his prince.[12]

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Kiangsi's most famous personality was the Sung prime minister Wang An-shih (1021 to 1086). His attempts to introduce reforms directed against the rich and in favor of the peasant included the idea of government loans and intervention in agriculture to assure "an ever-normal granary."[13] The program was broadly analagous to the United States Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933.

C. The Slow Process of Integration in Kwangtung and Kwangsi

Kwangtung and Kwangsi were nominally subjected to Chinese rule by the Ch'in Dynasty, but the two provinces did much as they pleased, until conquered by a Han military expedition in 112 B.C. The subsequent settlement of Chinese officials and military agricultural colonies in Kwangtung and Kwangsi tied the 14 provinces more firmly to the Chinese Empire.

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12. Latourette, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 53, 68.
13. Ibid., pp. 253-57.
14. Weins, op. cit., pp. 232-39.